

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for communicating user identification information over a communications network, comprising:

5 a first network interface operable to establish a communication session with a network user, the network user having a network locator address;

10 a second network interface operable to process a request sent by the user in the communication session, the second network interface operable to determine if an identity of the network user associated with the network locator address is stored in a local memory of the second network interface, the second network interface operable to obtain additional information about the network user in response to the identity of the network user being stored in the local memory, the second network interface operable to process the request according to the additional information.

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20 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the second network interface is operable to send a query to the first network interface upon determining that there is no network user identity associated with the network locator address of the network user stored in the local memory, the first network interface operable to provide the identity of the network user to the second network interface in response to the query.

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3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the second network interface is operable to send a query to the network user upon determining that there is no network user identity associated with the network locator address of the network user stored in the local memory, the second network interface operable to receive the identity of the network user in response to the query.

4. The system of Claim 3, wherein the second network interface is operable to authenticate the identity of the network user received from the first network interface.

5. The system of Claim 3, wherein the second network interface is operable to store the identity of the network user in the local memory and associate the identity of the network user with the network locator address.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the network is an Internet Protocol network and the network locator address is an Internet Protocol address.

7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the additional information about the network user includes at least one service to be performed on the request.

8. The system of Claim 7, wherein the at least one service to be performed on the request includes rating and filtering content of an exchange of information with the network user associated with the request.

9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the second network interface associates the request, the network locator address, and the identity of the network user with the first network interface.

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10. The system of Claim 1, wherein the first network interface provides the second network interface with an association of the identity of the network user with the network locator address upon establishing the communication session.

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11. A device for communicating user identification information over a communications network, comprising:

15 a client service gateway operable to process a request sent by a network user in a communication session, the network user having a network locator address, the client service gateway operable to determine if an identity of the network user associated with the network locator address is stored in a local memory of the client service gateway, the client service gateway operable to obtain additional information about the network user in response to the identity of the network user being stored in the local memory, the client service gateway operable to process the request according to the 20 additional information.

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12. The device of Claim 11, wherein the client service gateway is operable to send a query upon determining that there is no network user identity associated with the network locator address of the request stored in the local memory, the client service gateway operable to receive the identity of the network user in response to the query, the client service gateway operable to associate and store the received identity of the network user with the network locator address of the request.

13. The device of Claim 12, wherein the client service gateway is operable to determine an appropriate one of a plurality of service selection gateways that established the communication session with the network user to send the query in response to the network locator address.

14. The device of Claim 11, wherein the client service gateway is operable to receive an association of the identity of the network user with the network locator address upon establishment of the communication session.

15. The device of Claim 11, wherein the additional information includes a service associated with the network user to be performed on the request, the client service gateway operable to perform the service on the request.

16. A method for communicating user identification information over a communications network, comprising:

receiving a request by a network user in a communication session;

5 receiving information that identifies a network location of the network user;

determining if network user identification information that is associated with the network location information is stored in a memory;

10 retrieving additional information about the network user in response to a determination that the network user identification information is stored in the memory;

processing the request according to the additional information.

15 17. The method of Claim 16, further comprising:

communicating a query for network user identification information upon determining that no network user information associated with the network location information is stored in memory;

20 receiving network user identification information in response to the query;

storing the received network user identification information in the memory.

25 18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising:

associating the received network user identification information with the network location information.

30 19. The method of Claim 17, further comprising:

authenticating an identity of the network user.

20. The method of Claim 16, wherein the network is a Internet Protocol network and the network location information of the network user is an Internet Protocol address.

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21. The method of Claim 16, wherein the additional information includes at least one service to be performed in association with the request.

10 22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the at least one service to be performed includes rating appropriate content of an exchange of information associated with the request.

15 23. The method of Claim 21, wherein the at least one service to be performed includes filtering an exchange of information associated with the request.

24. A system for communicating user identification information over a communications network, comprising:

means for receiving a request by a network user in a communication session;

5 means for receiving information that identifies a network location of the network user;

means for determining if network user identification information associated with the network location information is stored in a memory;

10 means for retrieving additional information about the network user in response to a determination that the network user identification information is stored in the memory;

15 means for processing the request according to the additional information.

25. The system of Claim 23, further comprising:

means for communicating a query for network user identification information upon determining that no network user identification information associated with the network location information is stored in memory;

means for receiving network user identification information in response to the query;

25 means for storing the network user identification information in the memory.

30. The system of Claim 24, further comprising:

means for associating the network user identification information with the network location information.

27. The system of Claim 24, further comprising:  
means for authenticating an identity of the network  
user.

5           28. The system of Claim 23, further comprising:  
means for performing at least one service specified  
by the additional information on the request.

10           29. A computer readable medium including code for  
communicating user identification information over a  
communications network, the code operable to perform a  
process comprising;

15           receiving a request by a network user to establish a  
communication session, the network user having a network  
locator address within the network;

20           determining if an identity of the network user is  
associated with the network location information in a  
memory;

25           retrieving additional information associated with  
the network user in response to the memory having an  
association of the network locator address with the  
identity of the network user;

30           processing the request in accordance with the  
additional information.

30. The computer readable medium of Claim 28,  
further comprising:

5 communicating a query for the identity of the  
network user upon determining that there is no  
association in the memory for the network locator address  
and the identity of the network user;

receiving the identity of the network user in  
response to the query;

10 storing the network user identification information  
in the memory;

associating the identity of the network user in the  
memory with the network locator address.

15 31. The computer readable medium of Claim 28,  
wherein the additional information includes a service to  
be performed on the request, the code operable to perform  
the service on the request.

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